

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, January 19, 1877, with transcript

Boston Jan. 19th, 1877. Dear May

Having just finished sixteen letters you may imagine I am rather too tired to think of writing another even to my dear little May.

I can't however go to bed without sending you just a line to let you see that you have been in my thoughts—and to let you know that our experiments this morning before the Detroit gentleman who want to buy the right to use the Telephone-were most successful.

I have written to Prof. Pickering offering to make another communication to the Academy of Arts and Science, and I am now making arrangements to try an experiment upon the line between Boston and Salem on Sunday without a battery. I only wish darling that you could hear my instruments. I have a nice little instrument in my mind for your special benefit— whereby you may s ee the movements of the armature—that we hear.

Last night's Transcript contains the following slip:

.....“The “telephone” must be pushed to practical use, since telegrams have become no more sacred than postal cards.”

And now I shall go to bed. I am afraid to look at my watch for fear you will ask me what time it is!

I am so impatient to see you again—I feel like attempting to walk to Cambridge to do so—but I suppose I must try to be patient. If my foot is well enough I shall come 2 to see you on Sunday afternoon.

Library of Congress

If you would like to see the experiment at the Telegraph office on Sunday morning—come in to Boston.

In case I do not have an opportunity of hearing from you before then—I shall drive past the apothecaric's store on the corner of Temple St. about ten o'clock—and if you are there—I will drive you to the telegraph office. We are obliged to try such experiments on Sunday as the line is used constantly day and night excepting Sunday.

Excuse this hurried scrawl—as I am so tired. I trust Miss Blatckford's arm is getting well. Please remind me to give you the key of your desk—I always think of it when you are not present. Kind regards to Miss Blatckford—Miss Caine—and Mr. Scudder—and best love to my dear little girl

from Alec. Miss Mabel Hubbard Cambridge